



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

MAR 28 2019

Montana Democrats
Monica Lindeen, Executive Director
303 North Ewing Street
Helena, Montana 59601

RE: MUR 6852
Special Operations for America
Zinke for Congress
Ryan K. Zinke
Battle Plan Strategies
Continental Divide, LLC

Dear Ms. Lindeen:

The Federal Election Commission has considered the allegations contained in your complaint dated June 30, 2014, but was equally divided on whether to find reason to believe that:

- Special Operations for America and Kaarlo Hietala in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a)(1), 30118(a), and 30104(b), and made prohibited contributions in connection with Ryan K. Zinke's candidacy exploratory expenses;
- Zinke for Congress and Lorna Kuney in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f), 30118(a), and 30104(b); and
- Ryan K. Zinke violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) and 30118(a), and 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102 and 30104 and 11 C.F.R. §§ 101.1 and 101.3 by filing his Statement of Candidacy late and failed to report testing the waters expenses.

Accordingly, on March 19, 2019, the Commission closed the file in this matter. A Statement of Reasons providing a basis for the Commission's decision will follow.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See* Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016).

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The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8). If you have any questions, please contact Elena Paoli, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1548.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Allen".

Mark Allen
Assistant General Counsel

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